2002. On the recommendations of the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 22nd June 2000, an Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers was constituted to deliberate and decide on matters relating to implementation of VAT by the States/UTs.

(c) and (d) while no State has formally stated so far that it will not switch over to the Value Added Tax System, only Government of Haryana is reported to have introduced VAT with effect from 01 April, 2003.

(e) and (f) In a meeting of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers held on 8th April, 2003 it has reportedly been decided that 16 States (which includes Haryana) will introduce VAT with effect from 01 June, 2003.

(g) Accurate assessment of loss, if any, on account of introduction of VAT is possible only after its actual implementation by individual States.

Allocation of Kerosene to Uttaranchal

3329. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability and consumption of kerosene oil in Uttaranchal, district-wise and panchayat-wise; and

(b) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to increase the allocation of kerosene oil to Uttaranchal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government makes kerosene allocation to various States/Union Territories for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS). State Governments/Union Territory Administrations undertake distribution of the product within the concerned State/Union Territory. As per the allocation approved for the year 2003-2004, per capita allocation of kerosene to the State of Uttaranchal is 11.01 Kg per annum.

Exploration of gas in Rajasthan

3330. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in Rajasthan where exploration for petroleum and gas has been taken up after the discovery of petroleum and gas in Barmer district recently;